

April 18, 1980

LB 789A, 773A

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion lost. Next motion has to do with LB 773, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch moves that LB 773A become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1973, this body saw fit to put together a commission that was supposed to coordinate and work together to reach some kind of negotiated agreements among the various departments on how we work with handicapped people. That bill sat on the law book for years. Nothing was ever accomplished. The reason was there never was an appropriation made that would allow them to do certain things. As I explained to you before, the body of 773 is a step towards accountability. We are very concerned in this body as we demonstrated today about excessive costs or lack of logical reasoning for spending. So the legislative...the Education Committee worked very diligently to present to you a coordinating commission made up of the various agencies that work with people who have unique handicapping conditions. The amount of money below is \$32,500 and I have watched us appropriate larger sums for other kinds of missions which may not be as positive, but if we want to see an audit review on accountability of the various agencies and the agreements that they are going to enter into in terms of how they expend money and who they are serving and whether or not there is duplication of fees or interresponsible action of an agency, then for us to go away from here without properly funding this for at least one year would be negligent on our part. We might as well kill LB 773 if we do not intend to have some certain amount of funds there to carry out the intent and purpose and that intent is very clear. There shall be an assessment of services and there shall be a signing on of agreements negotiated by those various agencies for certain kinds of services and performances and you don't do this for a three cents postage stamp. If you look at the bills we have treated where the monies have been denied, then obviously we can't accomplish many things that we expect to come out of one agency or another. So since the other day we discussed this and I was trying to look at the Journal and see how many green votes it got because I want to check the credibility but I know it was rather overwhelming when I saw all those green votes go up for 773A and I am requesting that you give it the same support this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy.